**(Date)**

**Dear (insert name of your MP)**

Re:

**The UK must change its arms trade and aid policies to support the people of Yemen**

I write to you as your constituent to express my deep concerns about UK Government policy towards Yemen, which is currently in the thick of the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Although the UK government has called for peace in Yemen, it continues to license the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia – one of the countries most heavily involved in the conflict. And despite the huge suffering of the Yemeni people, the UK government has recently cut aid to Yemen by more than a half.

Earlier this year, the US and Italy announced their decision to halt their arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The UK, however, has declined to follow suit.

In June 2019, following a legal challenge from campaigners, the UK Court of Appeal ruled that UK government arms sales to Saudi Arabia were unlawful. This prevented any new export licenses for arms to Saudi Arabia. Yet, on 7 July 2020, the UK government announced that it would start issuing such arms export licenses again.

The people of Yemen have suffered six years of brutal warfare. The UN estimates 233,000 people have died due to attacks on civilians, preventable diseases and widespread malnutrition. Two-thirds of the population (20.7 million Yemenis) require urgent humanitarian assistance just to survive.

Now, Yemen also faces the challenge of fighting Covid-19’s rapid spread. The country’s health care system has all but collapsed. The humanitarian response to this emergency is woefully underfunded by the international community. Attacks have escalated recently. **Yemen cannot wait any longer for the violence to end.**

I am writing today to ask you, please, to write to the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Trade to urge them to stop licensing arms sales to Saudi Arabia and to reverse the cuts in humanitarian support for the people of Yemen.

I would very much like to hear what you as my MP think about this situation, and to know how the Foreign Secretary and International Trade Secretary respond.

Kind regards,

**(name)**

**(contact details including your address to show you live in the constituency)**